



**For Release: Wednesday, March 15, 2017**

**17-345-NEW**

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY INFORMATION OFFICE: New York City, N.Y.

Technical information: (646) 264-3600 BLSinfoNY@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/new-york-new-jersey

Media contact: (646) 264-3620

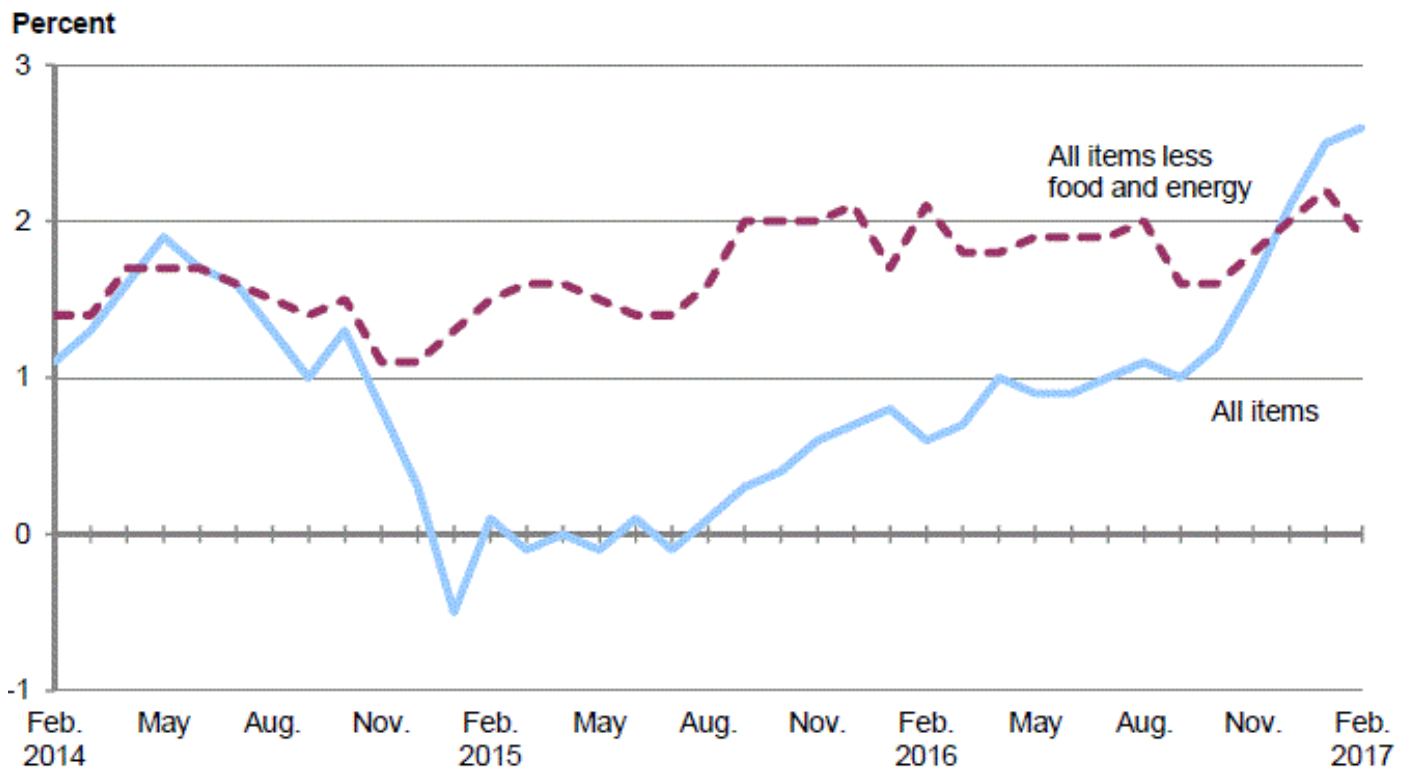
## Consumer Price Index, New York-Northern New Jersey – February 2017

### Area prices up 0.3 percent over the month and 2.6 percent over the year

Prices in the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 0.3 percent in February after rising 0.6 percent in January, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Chief Regional Economist Martin Kohli noted that the February increase was primarily due to higher prices for recreation and apparel. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the year, the CPI-U advanced 2.6 percent, the largest 12-month increase since March 2012. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.2 percent. (See [table A](#) and [chart 1](#).) Higher prices for shelter drove the 12-month change in both indexes. (See [table 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, February 2014–February 2017**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Food

The food index dipped 0.1 percent over the month, after increasing 0.6 percent in January. Prices for food away from home edged down 0.2 percent, while prices for food at home were unchanged. A variety of groceries had higher prices in February, including lettuce, pork chops, and beverage materials including tea, but these price increases were offset by lower prices for food items including soups and snacks.

Over the year, the food index increased 0.4 percent. A 2.4-percent rise in prices for food away from home was largely offset by a 1.1-percent drop in prices for food at home

## Energy

The energy index edged up 0.2 percent after rising at least 2.5 percent in each of the prior three months. Household energy prices rose 1.9 percent in February, but the increase was largely offset by a 2.2-percent fall in gasoline prices, the first decline since August. Within household energy, electricity prices rose 2.0 percent, and natural gas prices increased 2.6 percent.

For the year ended in February 2017, energy prices advanced 18.8 percent, the largest increase since September 2008. Gasoline prices climbed 32.9 percent, and household energy prices rose 11.1 percent. Among household energy components, natural gas jumped 23.7 percent—the largest 12-month increase in 11 years. Electricity prices rose 3.3 percent.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.3 percent, following a 0.4-percent rise in January. Prices for apparel, often up in February, increased 2.7 percent, and prices for recreation jumped 2.0 percent, due in part to higher prices for cable and satellite television service. Prices for shelter and medical care, however, were unchanged over the month. Within shelter, residential rent ticked up 0.1 percent, and owners' equivalent rent was flat.

From February 2016 to February 2017, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.9 percent. Shelter prices increased 2.8 percent. Within shelter, owners' equivalent rent rose 2.7 percent and residential rent, 2.4 percent. Recreation prices advanced 3.9 percent, and medical care prices increased 3.7 percent. Apparel prices, in contrast, declined 0.7 percent.

**Table A. New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)**

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.4	2.8	0.5	2.2	0.9	1.9	0.1	-0.5	0.2	0.8	0.6	2.5
February.....	0.4	2.6	0.6	2.4	-0.2	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.3	2.6
March.....	0.6	2.6	0.1	1.9	0.4	1.3	0.2	-0.1	0.2	0.7		
April.....	0.2	2.4	-0.2	1.4	0.0	1.6	0.1	0.0	0.4	1.0		
May.....	0.1	1.8	0.1	1.4	0.5	1.9	0.4	-0.1	0.3	0.9		
June.....	-0.1	1.6	0.3	1.8	0.0	1.7	0.2	0.1	0.2 <sup>(r)</sup>	0.9 <sup>(r)</sup>		
July.....	-0.2	1.1	0.2	2.1	0.1	1.6	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	1.0		
August.....	0.6	1.4	0.1	1.7	-0.2	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.1		
September.....	0.4	1.6	0.3	1.6	0.0	1.0	0.2	0.3	0.2	1.0		
October.....	-0.1	1.7	-0.6	1.1	-0.2	1.3	-0.1	0.4	0.1	1.2		
November.....	0.0	2.0	0.1	1.2	-0.4	0.8	-0.2	0.6	0.2	1.6		
December.....	-0.3	2.1	0.0	1.5	-0.5	0.3	-0.4	0.7	0.1	2.1		

Footnotes:

(R) = revised.

## CPI-W

In February, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 262.086, up 0.3 percent over the month. The CPI-W rose 2.7 percent over the year.

---

**The March 2017 Consumer Price Index for New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island is scheduled to be released Friday, April 14, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).**

### Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf).

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, N.Y.-N.J.-Conn.-Pa. consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Bronx, Dutchess, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties in New York State; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties in New Jersey; Fairfield County and parts of Litchfield, Middlesex, and New Haven Counties in Connecticut; and Pike County in Pennsylvania.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, New York-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)(not seasonally adjusted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2016	Jan. 2017	Feb. 2017	Feb. 2016	Dec. 2016	Jan. 2017
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	265.421	266.917	267.662	2.6	0.8	0.3
All items (1967=100) .....	767.295	771.621	773.774			
Food and beverages .....	257.012	258.304	258.137	0.4	0.4	-0.1
Food .....	256.849	258.298	258.088	0.4	0.5	-0.1
Food at home .....	247.754	249.820	249.874	-1.1	0.9	0.0
Food away from home.....	276.672	277.261	276.661	2.4	0.0	-0.2
Alcoholic beverages .....	254.823	253.983	254.398	0.4	-0.2	0.2
Housing .....	288.586	289.262	289.614	3.1	0.4	0.1
Shelter .....	365.319	365.684	365.599	2.8	0.1	0.0
Rent of primary residence(1).....	377.194	377.224	377.592	2.4	0.1	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1) (2) .....	371.689	372.132	372.060	2.7	0.1	0.0
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	371.213	371.656	371.598	2.7	0.1	0.0
Fuels and utilities.....	183.017	184.792	187.826	9.7	2.6	1.6
Household energy .....	174.421	176.339	179.619	11.1	3.0	1.9
Energy services(1) .....	168.231	169.309	173.010	9.3	2.8	2.2
Electricity(1).....	176.861	174.823	178.298	3.3	0.8	2.0
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	143.902	150.348	154.239	23.7	7.2	2.6
Household furnishings and operations .....	109.988	111.015	110.939	-1.3	0.9	-0.1
Apparel .....	119.924	127.022	130.424	-0.7	8.8	2.7
Transportation .....	210.671	212.861	213.382	4.8	1.3	0.2
Private transportation .....	197.258	200.128	199.648	6.2	1.2	-0.2
Motor fuel .....	190.908	199.975	195.510	32.9	2.4	-2.2
Gasoline (all types).....	190.162	199.139	194.680	32.9	2.4	-2.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3).....	188.631	197.956	193.165	34.7	2.4	-2.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4).....	200.508	208.242	205.484	25.2	2.5	-1.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3).....	202.837	209.641	207.121	22.8	2.1	-1.2
Medical care .....	470.698	474.449	474.262	3.7	0.8	0.0
Recreation(5).....	121.369	120.828	123.301	3.9	1.6	2.0
Education and communication(5).....	144.266	144.450	144.602	0.7	0.2	0.1
Other goods and services .....	414.381	416.991	417.807	1.5	0.8	0.2
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items.....	265.421	266.917	267.662	2.6	0.8	0.3
Commodities .....	184.676	187.433	187.427	1.9	1.5	0.0
Commodities less food and beverages ....	140.641	143.918	143.987	3.1	2.4	0.0
Nondurables less food and beverages.	177.128	182.215	182.479	6.5	3.0	0.1
Durables .....	93.993	95.239	95.108	-2.8	1.2	-0.1
Services.....	333.634	334.211	335.546	2.9	0.6	0.4
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, New York-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)(not seasonally adjusted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2016	Jan. 2017	Feb. 2017	Feb. 2016	Dec. 2016	Jan. 2017
All items less medical care .....	256.501	257.902	258.684	2.5	0.9	0.3
All items less shelter.....	225.848	227.812	228.898	2.5	1.4	0.5
Commodities less food .....	144.938	148.104	148.183	3.0	2.2	0.1
Nondurables .....	218.527	221.876	221.937	3.0	1.6	0.0
Nondurables less food.....	181.856	186.601	186.875	6.0	2.8	0.1
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	310.022	310.830	313.742	3.1	1.2	0.9
Services less medical care services.....	322.714	322.981	324.290	2.8	0.5	0.4
Energy .....	183.116	187.773	188.161	18.8	2.8	0.2
All items less energy .....	275.248	276.461	277.245	1.7	0.7	0.3
All items less food and energy .....	280.307	281.488	282.446	1.9	0.8	0.3

Footnotes(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

The New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA consolidated area comprises the five boroughs of New York City, Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, and Orange Counties in New York State; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Monmouth, Middlesex, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties in New Jersey; Fairfield County and parts of Litchfield, New Haven, and Middlesex Counties in Connecticut; and Pike County in Pennsylvania.